

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in the application. In the non-final Office Action of May 1, 2007, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Provisionally rejected claims 1-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-40 of U.S. 09/944,192.
- B.) Rejected claims 1-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24 of U.S. 7,059,516.
- C.) Rejected claims 1-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2 of U.S. 6,990,684.
- D.) Provisionally rejected claims 1-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-30 of U.S. 09/943,683.
- E.) Rejected claims 1-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 of U.S. 7,100,044.
- F.) Otherwise allowed claims 1-27.

Applicants address the Examiner's disposition below.

- A.) Provisionally rejected claims 1-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-40 of U.S. 09/944,192:

Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer, as per the Examiner's request, to overcome the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

- B.) Rejected claims 1-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-24 of U.S. 7,059,516:

Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer, as per the Examiner's request, to overcome the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

- C.) Rejected claims 1-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-2 of U.S. 6,990,684:

Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer, as per the Examiner's request, to overcome the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

D.) Provisionally rejected claims 1-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-30 of U.S. 09/943,683:

Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer, as per the Examiner's request, to overcome the rejection. Applicants note that Application No. 09/943,683 has issued as U.S. Patent No. 7,185,193.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

E.) Rejected claims 1-27 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 of U.S. 7,100,044:

Applicants herewith submit a Terminal Disclaimer, as per the Examiner's request, to overcome the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

F.) Otherwise allowed claims 1-27:

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claims 1-27.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-27 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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